

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-03 SEC-01
/068 W

-----071516Z 102276 /45

O 071425Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5610
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: MAARIV REPORTS RABINS MAINTAINED TWO U.S. BANK ACCOUNTS

1. TODAY'S MAARIV ASSERTED THAT PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. RABIN HAD MAINTAINED TWO BANK ACCOUNTS IN THE U.S. AFTER THEIR RETURN TO ISRAEL, NOT ONE AS HAD BEEN EARLIER REPORTED, AND THAT THEIR BALANCES HAD AT ONE TIME TOTALED \$20,000..ACCORDING TO MAARIV, THE FINANCE MINISTRY HAS DECIDED TO LEVY A FINE OF 150,000 ISRAELI POUNDS ON THE RABINS BUT THIS DECISION MUST STILL BE APPROVED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

2. THE ORIGINAL STORY WHICH APPEARED LAST MONTH CLAIMED THAT THE ACCOUNT WAS IN LEAH RAIN'S NAME AND TOTALED SOME \$2,000.MAINTAINING A FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNT OF LESS THAN \$5,000 IS NORMALLY PUNISHED BY A FINE. ABOVE THAT SUM,HOWEVER,THE
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ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS THE OPTION OF INSTITUTING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS. THE ARTICLE REPORTS RUMORS THAT RABIN IS CONSIDERING RESIGNING IN THE WAKE OF THIS REVELATION.

3. COMMENT: THE REVELATION, PARTICULARLY IF THE LARGE SUMS ARE CONFIRMED,WILL BE A VERY SERIOUS

SET-BACK FOR THE ALIGNMENT AT A TIME WHEN THEIR FORTUNES SEEMED TO BE ON THE UPTURN. OUR CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT RABIN'S RESIGNATION AS PRIME MINISTER IS UNLIKELY (AT LEAST PENDING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) IN VIEW OF HIS HEADING A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WHICH IS PRECLUDED BY STATUTE FROM RESIGNING. HOWEVER, THEY AGREE THAT HIS STEPPING DOWN AS THE ALIGNMENT'S STANDARD BEARER IS A REAL POSSIBILITY. SUCH A MOVE WOULD SEEM TO GIVE THE ALIGNMENT'S TOP SPOT TO SHIMON PERES BY DEFAULT SINCE THERE PROBABLY IS INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE RABIN FORCES IN THE LABOR PARTY TO COME UP WITH ACCEPTABLE ALTRNATIVE CANDIDATE. (KNESSET LISTS MUST BE REGISTERED BY APRIL 12).

4.SINCE REPORTS OF LEAH'S ACCOUNT WERE FIRST AIRED, THE STORY HAD ALL BUT DISAPPEARED FROM THE MEDIA AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE TENTATIVE IN PICKING IT UP--APPARENTLY BELIEVEING THAT LATER DISCLOSURES WOULD DO THEIR WORK FOR THEM.RABIN ACCEPTED EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS WIFE'S ACCOUNT SOON AFTER THE STORY BROKE. WHAT WAS THEN VIEWED AS A CHIVALROUS (AND POLITICALLY WISE) GESTURE NOW, HOWEVER, TAKES ON THE APPEARANCE OF A COVER-UP OF THE SECOND ACCOUNT.

5. A JOURNALIST CLOSE TO PERES HAS FLATLY PREDICTED THAT RABIN WILL RESIGN AS HIS PARTY'S LIST LEADER. ANOTHER JOURNALIST TOLD US THAT THE LABOR PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET TODAY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AND THAT "HIGH LEVEL MINISTERS" WERE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF RABIN'S RSIGNATION. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TOLD THE CHARGE AFTER THAT MEETING THAT THE RUMORS OF RABIN'S RESIGATION WERE NOT TRUE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE SUBJECT HAD NOT EVEN BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE CHANGES IN THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP, HESAID LAMELY, "I HOPE NOT."
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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